

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	09/937,528	POUNDS, STEPHEN T.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Joanne Silbermann	3611	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to telephone interview and proposed amendment of 10/27/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-14 and 16-52.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 24 September 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
  1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**11 Attachment(s)**

01 00000004 500852 09037528  
 01 FC-2202 18-00-00

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)</li> <li>2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)</li> <li>3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____</li> <li>4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)</li> <li>6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____</li> <li>7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment</li> <li>8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance</li> <li>9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</li> </ol> |
|---|---|

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with James Stevens on October 27, 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

Please amend the claims as indicated in the following full listing of claims.

1. (Currently Amended) A framing system ~~for mounting or displaying a poster or other sheet material~~ comprising:  
frame members adapted to be secured together to form a base structure, said frame members being detachably connectable together such that they can be connected to each other to form said base structure as an open frame and can be subsequently disassembled by disconnecting said frame members from each other;  
a clamping structure adapted for engagement with said base structure to retain the sheet material therebetween, said clamping structure including a plurality of individual clamping members that attach to said frame members, said clamping structure further including pegs on one of said frame members and said clamping members and corresponding receiving holes on the other of said frame members and said clamping members, said receiving holes being adapted to receive said pegs to retain the sheet material between said clamping members and said frame members, and a sheet material adapted for disposition between said frame members and said clamping members, said sheet material including a plurality of holes therethrough at the periphery thereof for receiving said pegs to thereby secure said sheet material between said frame members and said clamping members.

2. (Previously Presented) A system as set forth in claim 1 wherein said base structure comprises four frame members, each of said frame members extending between a pair of inwardly angled ends, and each of said angled ends adapted to be connected to an adjacent complementary end of another of said frame members.

3. (Previously Presented) A system as set forth in claim 2 wherein some of said ends of said frame members include a tenon and others of said ends of said frame members include a mortise, and wherein said frame members can be interconnected to form a rectangular frame by inserting said tenons into said mortises.

Art Unit: 3611

4. (Currently Amended) A framing system for mounting or displaying a poster or other sheet material comprising:

frame members adapted to be secured together to form a base structure, said frame members being detachably connectable together such that they can be connected to each other to form said base structure as an open frame and can be subsequently disassembled by disconnecting said frame members from each other; and

a clamping structure adapted for engagement with said base structure to retain the sheet material therebetween, said clamping structure including a plurality of individual clamping members that attach to said frame members said clamping structure further including pegs on one of said frame members and said clamping members and corresponding receiving holes on the other of said frame members and said clamping members, said receiving holes being adapted to receive said pegs to retain the sheet material between said clamping members and said frame members;

wherein said base structure comprises four frame members each of said frame members extending between a pair of inwardly angled ends, and each of said angled ends adapted to be connected to an adjacent complementary end of another of said frame members;

wherein some of said ends of said frame members include a tenon and others of said ends of said frame members include a mortise, and wherein said frame members can be interconnected to form a rectangular frame by inserting said tenons into said mortises, and

~~A system as set forth in claim 3~~ wherein each of said tenons and said mortises includes one of said receiving holes which are aligned when said tenon and said mortise are in mating engagement, and wherein said aligned holes are adapted to receive one of said pegs to thereby secure adjacent frame members together.

5. (Previously Presented) .A system as set forth in claim 3 wherein each of said frame members includes a mortise on one of said ends thereof and a tenon on the opposite one of said ends.

6. (Previously Presented) A system as set forth in claim 3 wherein two of said frame members include at least one mortise on each of said ends thereof and the other two of said frame members includes at least one tenon on each of said ends thereof.

7. (Previously Presented) A system as set forth in claim 3 wherein said tenons and said mortises extend in the same direction as said angled end.

8. (Previously Presented) A system as set forth in claim 3 wherein said tenons each extend at generally at a right angle with respect to said frame member, and said mortises each extend generally in the same direction as said frame member.

9. (Previously Presented) A system as set forth in claim 1 wherein said frame members include a flat front surface, said front flat surface including a plurality of said receiving holes.

Art Unit: 3611

10. (Original) A system as set forth in claim 9 wherein said clamping members include a bottom flat surface, said bottom flat surface including a plurality of pegs adapted for engagement with said receiving holes.

11. (Original) A system as set forth in claim 10 wherein, said frame members further include a shoulder extending from said flat front surface, said shoulder and said front flat surface defining a channel for receiving said clamping members.

12. (Currently Amended) A framing system comprising: frame members adapted to be secured together to form a base structure, said frame members being detachably connectable together to form a base structure, said frame members being detachably connectable together such that they can be connected to each other to form said base structure as an open frame and can be subsequently disassembled by disconnecting said frame members from each other; a clamping structure adapted for engagement with said base structure to retain the sheet material therebetween, said clamping structure including a plurality of individual clamping members that attach to said frame members, said clamping structure further including pegs on one of said frame members and said clamping

members and corresponding receiving holes on the other of said frame members and said clamping members, said receiving holes being adapted to receive said pegs to retain the sheet material between said clamping members and said frame members; and

~~A system as set forth in claim 10 further including~~  
a protective cover adapted

for disposition between said frame members and said clamping members, said protective cover including a plurality of holes therethrough at the periphery thereof for receiving the pegs to thereby secure said protective cover between said frame members and said clamping members.

13. (Currently Amended) A framing system comprising: frame members adapted to be secured together to form a base structure, said frame members being detachably connectable together such that they can be connected to each other to form said base structure as an open frame and can be subsequently disassembled by disconnecting said frame members from each other; a clamping structure adapted for engagement with said base structure to retain the sheet material therebetween said clamping structure including a plurality of individual clamping members that attach to said frame members, said clamping structure further including pegs on one of said frame members and said clamping members and corresponding receiving holes on the other of said frame members and said clamping members, said receiving holes being adapted to receive said pegs to retain the sheet material between said clamping members and said frame members; and

Art Unit: 3611

~~A system as set forth in claim 10 further including~~

a poster adapted for disposition between said frame members and said clamping members, said poster including a plurality of holes therethrough at the periphery thereof for receiving said pegs to thereby secure said poster between said frame members and said clamping members.

14. (Currently Amended) A framing system for mounting or displaying a poster or other sheet material comprising:

a plurality of frame members that interconnect to form a base structure, each frame member having a pair of ends with each end interconnecting with an end of another of said frame members to form said base structure as an open frame; and

a plurality of separate clamping members each being individually attachable directly to said base structure to retain the sheet material between said base structure and said clamping members, wherein said clamping members secure adjacent frame members together when connected with said base structure.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) A system as set forth in claim 14 wherein said base structure comprises four frame members, each of said frame members extending between a pair of inwardly angled ends, and each of said angled ends adapted to be connected to an adjacent complementary end of another of said frame members.

17. (Previously Presented) A system as set forth in claim 16 further including pegs on one of said frame members and said clamping members and corresponding receiving holes on the other of said frame members and said clamping members, said receiving holes being adapted to receive said pegs to retain the sheet material between said clamping members and said frame members.

18. (Previously Presented) A system as set forth in claim 17 wherein some of said ends of said frame members include a tenon and others of said ends of said frame members include a mortise, and wherein said frame members can be interconnected to form a rectangular frame by inserting said tenons into said mortises.

19. (Currently Amended) A framing system for mounting or displaying a poster or other sheet material comprising:

a plurality of frame members that interconnect to form a base structure, each frame member having a pair of ends with each end interconnecting with an end of another of said frame members to form said base structure as an open frame; and

a plurality of separate clamping members each being individually attachable directly to said base structure to retain the sheet material between said base structure and said clamping members,

wherein said base structure comprises four frame members, each of said frame members extending between a pair of inwardly angled ends, and each of said angled

Art Unit: 3611

ends adapted to be connected to an adjacent complementary end of another of said frame members;

wherein said framing system further includes pegs on one of said frame members and said clamping members and corresponding receiving holes on the other of said frame members and said clamping members, said receiving holes being adapted to receive said pegs to retain the sheet material between said clamping members and said frame members;

wherein some of said ends of said frame members include a tenon and others of said ends of said frame members include a mortise, and wherein said frame members can be interconnected to form a rectangular frame by inserting said tenons into said mortises; and

~~A system as set forth in claim 18~~ wherein each of said tenons and said mortises includes one of said receiving holes which are aligned when said tenon and said mortise are in mating engagement, and wherein said aligned holes are adapted to receive one of said pegs to thereby secure adjacent frame members together.

20. (Previously Presented) A system as set forth in claim 18 wherein each of said frame members includes a mortise on one of said ends thereof and a tenon on the opposite one of said ends.

21. (Previously Presented) A system as set forth in claim 18 wherein two of said frame members include at least one mortise on each of said ends thereof and the other two of said frame members includes at least one tenon on each of said ends thereof.

22. (Previously Presented) A system as set forth in claim 18 wherein said tenons and said mortises extend in the same direction as said angled end.

23. (Previously Presented) A system as set forth in claim 18 wherein said tenons each extend at generally at a right angle with respect to said frame member, and said mortises each extend generally in the same direction as said frame member.

24. (Currently Amended) A system as set forth in claim 14 ~~claim 15~~ wherein said frame members include a flat front surface, said front flat surface including a plurality of receiving holes.

25. (Original) A system, as set forth in claim 24 wherein said clamping members include a bottom flat surface, said bottom flat surface including a plurality of pegs adapted for engagement with said receiving holes.

26. (Original) A system as set forth in claim 25 wherein said frame members further include a shoulder extending from said flat front surface, said shoulder and said front flat surface defining a channel for receiving said clamping members.

Art Unit: 3611

27. (Previously Presented) A system as set forth in claim 25 further including a protective cover adapted for disposition between said frame members and said clamping members, said protective cover including a plurality of holes therethrough at the periphery thereof for receiving the pegs to thereby secure said protective cover between said frame members and said clamping members.

28. (Previously Presented) A system as set forth in claim 25 further including a poster adapted for disposition between said frame members and said clamping members, said poster including a plurality of holes therethrough at the periphery thereof for receiving said pegs to thereby secure said poster between said frame members and said clamping members.

29. (Currently Amended) A kit for making a framed display ~~containing a poster or other sheet material~~ comprising:  
a canister comprising a generally tubular canister body;  
a plurality of separate frame members adapted to be secured together to form a base structure;  
a sheet material having holes about the periphery of said sheet material; and  
a plurality of separate clamping members adapted for independent detachable connection with said base structure through said holes in said sheet material to retain said sheet material between said base structure and said clamping members;  
wherein said frame members, sheet material, and clamping members are disposed within said canister.

30. (Currently Amended) A kit as set forth in claim 29 wherein said sheet material comprises a poster, and wherein said kit further includes ~~further including~~  
a protective cover contained within said canister and sized relative to said poster ~~sheet material~~ such that said protective cover can overlie said sheet material while being retained between said base structure and said clamping member.

31. (Original) A kit as set forth in claim 29 further including a stopper to separate said canister into first and second volumes, wherein said frame members and said clamping members are in said first volume.

32. (Original) A kit as set forth in claim 29 further including a novelty item in said second volume.

33. (Currently Amended) A kit for making a framed display containing a poster or other sheet material comprising:  
a canister comprising a generally tubular canister body;  
a plurality of separate frame members adapted to be secured together to form a base structure;  
a sheet material; and

Art Unit: 3611

a plurality of separate clamping members adapted for independent detachable connection with said base structure to retain said sheet material between said base structure and said clamping members;

wherein said frame members, sheet material, and clamping members are disposed within said canister; and

~~A kit as set forth in claim 29~~ wherein said clamping members secure adjacent frame members together when connected with said base structure.

34. (Previously Presented) A kit as set forth in claim 33 wherein said base structure comprises four frame members, each of said frame members extending between a pair of inwardly angled ends, and each of said angled ends adapted to be connected to an adjacent complementary end of another of said frame members.

35. (Previously Presented) A kit as set forth in claim 34 further including pegs on one of said frame members and said clamping members and corresponding receiving holes on the other of said frame members and said clamping members, said receiving holes being adapted to receive said pegs to retain the sheet material between said clamping members and said frame members.

36. (Previously Presented) A kit as set forth in claim 35 wherein some of said ends of said frame members include a tenons and others of said ends of said frame members include a mortise, and wherein said frame members can be interconnected to form a rectangular frame by inserting said tenons into said mortises.

37. (Previously Presented) A kit as set forth in claim 35 wherein each of said tenons and said mortises includes one of said receiving holes which are aligned when said tenon and said mortise are in mating engagement, and wherein said aligned holes are adapted to receive one of said pegs to thereby secure adjacent frame members together.

38. (Previously Presented) A kit as set forth in claim 36 wherein each of said frame members includes a mortise on one of said ends thereof and a tenons on the opposite one of said ends.

39. (Previously Presented) A kit as set forth in claim 36 wherein two of said frame members include at least one mortise on each of said ends thereof and the other two of said frame members includes at least one tenon on each of said ends thereof.

40. (Previously Presented) A kit as set forth in claim 36 wherein said tenons and said mortises extend in the same direction as said angled end.

41. (Previously Presented) A kit as set forth in claim 36 wherein said tenons each extend at generally at a right angle with respect to said frame member, and said mortises each extend generally in the same direction as said frame member.



Art Unit: 3611

42. (Currently Amended) A kit for making a framed display containing a poster or other sheet material comprising:

a canister comprising a generally tubular canister body,

a plurality of separate frame members adapted to be secured together to form a base structure;

a sheet material; and

a plurality of separate clamping members adapted for independent detachable connection with said base structure to retain said sheet material between said base structure and said clamping members;

wherein said frame members, sheet material, and clamping members are disposed within, said canister; and

~~A kit as set forth in claim 29~~ wherein said frame members include a recessed flat front surface.

43. (Previously Presented) A kit as set forth in claim 42 wherein said clamping members include a bottom flat surface, wherein, for each of said frame members and said clamping members, one of said front flat surface and said bottom flat surface includes a plurality of receiving holes and the other of said front flat surface and said bottom flat surface including a plurality of pegs adapted for engagement with said receiving holes.

44. (Original) A kit as set forth in claim 43 wherein said frame members further include a shoulder extending from said flat front surface, said shoulder and said front flat surface defining a channel for receiving said clamping members.

45. (Previously Presented) A kit as set forth in claim 43 further including a protective cover adapted for disposition between said frame members and said clamping members, said protective cover including a plurality of holes therethrough at the periphery thereof for receiving the pegs to thereby secure said protective cover between said frame members and said clamping members.

46. (Previously Presented) A kit as set forth in claim 43 wherein said sheet material comprises a poster adapted for disposition between said frame members and said clamping members, said poster including a plurality of holes therethrough at the periphery thereof for receiving said pegs to thereby secure said poster between said frame members and said clamping members.

47. (Previously Presented) A kit as set forth in claim 29, further comprising at least one endcap connected to an end of said tubular canister and enclosing said frame members, sheet material, and clamping members within said canister.

48. (Previously Presented) A kit for making a framed display of a poster or other sheet material, comprising:  
a plurality of elongated frame members each having first and second ends that mate with complementary ends of another of said frame members, wherein said frame members can be connected together at said ends to form an open frame;

Art Unit: 3611

a sheet material sized to fit within said frame and including holes located at the periphery of said sheet material;  
a plurality of pegs sized to fit within said holes;  
a plurality of elongated clamping members, wherein said clamping members can be attached via said pegs to said open frame with said pegs extending through said holes to thereby clamp said sheet material to said frame; and  
a tubular canister containing said frame members, said sheet material, said pegs, and said clamping members.

49. (Previously Presented) A kit as set forth in claim 48, wherein said pegs comprise unitary portions of said clamping members.

50. (Previously Presented) A framing system for a poster or other sheet material, comprising:  
a plurality of elongated frame members each having a pair of ends, some of said ends being mortised and others of said ends having a tenon that fits within one or more of said mortises to thereby form a mortise and tenon joint, wherein said frame members can be connected together at said ends to form an open frame having one of said mortise and tenon joints at each end of each of said frame members;  
said mortises and said tenons each having a laterally extending through-hole, wherein said through-hole of each tenon aligns with said through-hole of an associated one of said mortises when said frame members are connected together by said joints to form said open frame; and  
a plurality of clamping members that can be attached to said frame members, wherein at least some of said clamping members include a peg, with said pegs extending into said aligned through holes at each of said joints to thereby prevent each of said tenons from detaching from its associated mortise.

51. (New) A system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said sheet material comprises a poster or protective cover.


52. (New) A kit as set forth in claim 29, wherein said sheet material comprises a protective cover.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joanne Silbermann whose telephone number is 703-308-2091. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 5:30 - 2:00.

Art Unit: 3611

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lesley Morris can be reached on 703-308-0629. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Joanne Silberman  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3611

JS